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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2012

CITY OF MORGAN HILL UNDERTAKING MAJOR CITYWIDE PLANNING EFFORT

City Selects Consultant to Help Lead Planning Effort

The City of Morgan Hill is embarking upon a major planning process, called Morgan Hill 2035, to help guide development and conservation in the city over the next 20 years. As the economy continues to recover across the nation and state, the City is taking this opportunity to let the community steer the future of development and investment in Morgan Hill. Specifically, Morgan Hill 2035 includes comprehensive updates to the City's major policy documents, including the General Plan, Housing Element, Zoning Code, Growth Management System, and Infrastructure Master Plans. In addition, the City will be coordinating with the Countywide Climate Action Plan (CAP) currently underway to ensure that the CAP prepared for Morgan Hill is properly integrated into the General Plan Update.

On December 19, 2012, the City Council approved the selection of a consultant team, led by The Planning Center | DC&E, to assist the City with this planning effort. The Planning Center | DC&E is a full-service consulting firm specializing in community planning, environmental services, and land Use planning and design. The team also includes BAE Urban Economics, economic and fiscal analyses specialists; Hexagon Transportation Consultants, transportation experts; Akel Engineering Group, water, sewer, and stormwater engineers; Tellus Ventures, telecommunications experts; and Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, land use, planning, and environmental law professionals.

"We are excited to get this process underway," said Mayor Steve Tate. "We also are interested in integrating the City's growth management practices into the General Plan so that it continues to provide for paced growth and community benefits, without the burdensome and expensive unit allocation process." **~~MORE~~**

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In addition to undertaking the 35-year old growth management system, another key area of focus for the General Plan Update is the Economic Development Element. City Manager, Ed Tewes says that “through this exercise, we will seek to achieve a plan that provides for the best future fiscal and economic health for the city. This means identifying the right mix, amount, types, and location of land uses; and a population level that would yield the best possible development scenario with a realistic jobs and housing balance goal.”

To develop planning documents that reflect the community’s values and priorities, Morgan Hill 2035 will be a highly participatory process. The process will rely upon feedback and direction from the community at a planned series of five community workshops and numerous public meetings, as well as a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) made up of Morgan Hill residents and business owners, and special study sessions with City decision-makers. For more information about this project or to apply for the GPAC, please visit www.MorganHill2035.org.

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If you’d like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Edith Ramirez, please call (408) 310-4633 or e-mail edith.ramirez@morganhill.ca.gov.